



Montana

## Department of Labor and Industry

### Commissioner's Office

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### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

#### 2006 GOVERNOR'S SAFETY AND HEALTH AWARDS

(Helena) --- The Montana Department of Labor and Industry today announced the 2006 Governor's Awards for Safety and Health will be presented at the Annual Governor's Conference on Workers' Compensation and Occupational Safety at the Holiday Inn Sunspree Resort in West Yellowstone, Sept 6-8, 2006.

"Governor Schweitzer will join with me in honoring the 'best of the best' in workplace safety," said Labor Commissioner Keith Kelly. "The 2006 awards recognize employers who have made outstanding achievements in improving safety and health in the workplace by initiating and updating programs in their individual companies."

Prior award recipients were acknowledged for their commitment to ongoing safety programs, involving their employees in the development of the in-house safety plan, and for exerting efforts to enhance their program by seeking advice and assistance of qualified professionals at the state and federal level. "They unselfishly shared their ideas with other employers throughout their communities and throughout the state," said Kelly.

The Safety and Health Bureau of the Department of Labor and Industry coordinates the competition and encourages every qualified employer in Montana to submit a nomination so they will have opportunity to receive the recognition they so rightly deserve.

"The Governor's Awards are Montana's highest honors given to employers in both the public and private sectors for excellence in improving safety and health in the workplace," said Kelly.

Award winners are nominated annually by labor unions, trade associations, insurance companies, self nominations and

other entities. The nominees are independently evaluated and rated by a panel of safety professionals who objectively score the safety programs and records.

Employers are recognized by the size and nature of their workforce. Awards are given for large and small public employers; for large and small private employers: more or less than 75 employees. An award is also given for all types of mining and mining-related industries, i.e., sand and gravel operations, crushers, etc.

Employers who would like to be recognized for their efforts in safety-related issues for 2007 are encouraged to contact the Safety Bureau at the Department of Labor and Industry in Helena at (406) 444-6401. The deadline for next year's nominations is July 20, 2007.

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